

REMARKS

Claims 4-6 and 8-16 remain herein. Claims 4, 5, 8, 11 and 12 are currently amended.

Claims 9 and 10 are canceled.

1. Claims 4-6, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Wells U.S. Patent 2,264,685.

Claims 4 and 5 as amended claim supporting structure and a plate member including a conductor mounting portion of the plate member comprising a substantially longitudinal portion configured for supporting an electric power transmission line connected to and supported by a plurality of said supporting structures. Wells discloses a built-up insulating structure including a plurality of ceramic insulators positioned between a top connecting member 2 and a lower connecting member 3. The Office Action alleges that Wells top connecting member 2 is analogous to the plate member claimed herein, and that top connecting member 2 includes a conductor mounting portion of the plate member comprising a substantially longitudinal portion of a conductor path, "implicitly" because the Wells apparatus allegedly includes a longitudinal conductor path through the insulator columns.

However, applicant has amended claims 4 and 5 to claim a supporting structure and a plate member including a conductor mounting portion of the plate member comprising a substantially longitudinal portion configured for supporting an electric power transmission line connected to and supported by a plurality of said supporting structures. Wells does not disclose or suggest that plate member (top connecting member) 2 includes any longitudinal portion

configured for supporting an electric power transmission line connected to and supported by a plurality of supporting structures. Indeed, there is no suggestion whatsoever of any supporting structure and plate member including a conductor mounting portion of the plate member comprising a substantially longitudinal portion configured for supporting an electric power transmission line connected to and supported by a plurality of supporting structures. Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

2. Claims 8 and 11-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Wells in view of Locke U.S. Patent 872,569.

The Office Action relied on the alleged teachings of Wells as applied against claim 5. However, as explained above, Wells does not disclose or suggest a supporting structure and plate member including a conductor mounting portion of the plate member comprising a substantially longitudinal portion configured for supporting an electric power transmission line connected to and supported by a plurality of supporting structures as claimed in applicant's amended claim 5.

Locke also does not disclose or suggest a supporting structure and plate member including a conductor mounting portion of the plate member comprising a substantially longitudinal portion configured for supporting an electric power transmission line connected to and supported by a plurality of supporting structures. Locke, Fig. 1, shows electric conductor 6 mounted on center pin 5, secured with tie wire 7. There is no disclosure or suggestion of a plate member including any portions configured for supporting an electric power transmission line connected to and supported by a plurality of supporting structures.

For the foregoing reasons, neither Wells nor Locke discloses all elements of applicant's claimed invention, and neither of these references discloses anything which would have suggested applicant's claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in the art. Further, there is no disclosure or teaching in either Wells or Locke that suggested the desirability of combining any portions thereof effectively to anticipate or suggest applicant's presently claimed invention. For example, Wells discloses an insulating structure for supporting large electrical equipment such as a high-voltage electrode for use in atom "smashing" equipment, but Locke, 33 years older than Wells, discloses a system for supporting overhead power lines. For all the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claims 8 and 11-16.

For the foregoing reasons, all claims 4-6, 8, and 11-16 are now fully in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293. If further amendments would place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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